

DECLARATION - USA PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **MODIFYING NICOTINE AND NITROSAMINE LEVELS IN TOBACCO**; the specification of which was filed on **December 5, 2003** as Application Serial No. **10/729,121**..

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above;

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56;

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Codes § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application No.: 60/297,154

Filing Date: June 08, 2001

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

Priority
Claimed

No.: **PCT/US02/18040**

Country:

Date Filed: **June 06, 2002**

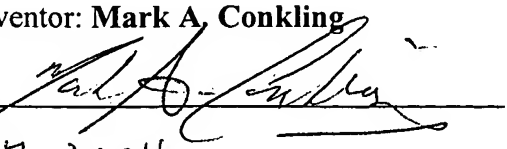
Yes

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: **Mark A. Conkling**

Inventor's signature

Date


April 7, 2004

Residence: **5511 New Rise Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27516**

Citizenship: **U.S.**

Post Office Address:

Send Correspondence To:

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Customer No. 20,995

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Application No.: 10/729,121
Filing Date: December 5, 2003

PATENT
Client Code: VTOB.033C1
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ASSIGNMENT


WHEREAS, I, Mark A. Conkling, a U.S. citizen, residing at 5511 New Rise Court, Chapel Hill, NC 27516, have invented certain new and useful improvements in a MODIFYING NICOTINE AND NITROSAMINE LEVELS IN TOBACCO for which I have filed an application for Letters Patent in the United States, Application No. 10/729,121 filed December 5, 2003;

AND WHEREAS, VECTOR TOBACCO LTD (hereinafter "ASSIGNEE"), a Bermuda Corporation, with its principal place of business at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HMCX, Bermuda, desires to acquire the entire right, title, and interest in and to the said improvements and the said Application:

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) to me in hand paid, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I, the said inventor, do hereby acknowledge that I have sold, assigned, transferred and set over, and by these presents do hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over, unto the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world in, to and under the said improvements, and the said application and all provisional applications relating thereto, and all divisions, renewals and continuations thereof, and all Letters Patent of the United States which may be granted thereon and all reissues and extensions thereof, and all rights of priority under International Conventions and applications for Letters Patent which may hereafter be filed for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States, and all Letters Patent which may be granted for said improvements in any country or countries foreign to the United States and all extensions, renewals and reissues thereof; and I hereby authorize and request the Commissioner of Patents of the United States, and any Official of any country or countries foreign to the United States, whose duty it is to issue patents on applications as aforesaid, to issue all Letters Patent for said improvements to the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, in accordance with the terms of this instrument.

AND I HEREBY covenant and agree that I will communicate to the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, any facts known to me respecting said improvements, and testify in any legal proceeding, sign all lawful papers, execute all divisional, continuing and reissue applications, make all rightful oaths and generally do everything possible to aid the said ASSIGNEE, his successors, legal representatives and assigns, to obtain and enforce proper patent protection for said improvements in all countries.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and seal this 7 day of April, 2004

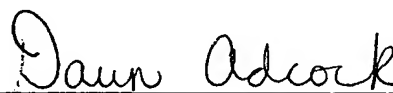

Mark A. Conkling

STATE OF NC }
COUNTY OF Granville } ss.

On 7th, April, 2004, before me, DAWN ADCOCK, personally appeared Mark A. Conkling personally known to me (or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence) to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same in his authorized capacity, and that by his signature on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

[SEAL]


Notary Signature